

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for detecting and selectively preventing the forwarding of an electronic message, wherein the message is sent by a sender to a recipient, and wherein the message has a message body and a message header, the system comprising:
 - a wireless gateway in communication with an electronic mail client;
 - a message database in communication with the gateway for storing a first message identifier associated with the electronic message; and
 - a search module in communication with the message database for determining whether a second message identifier associated with a forwarded electronic message is contained in the message database and, if the message database contains the second message identifier, preventing forwarding of the forwarded message.
2. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a message selection module for selecting on a per-message basis whether to prevent forwarding of the electronic message.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the message selection module identifies selected messages by including commands in the message body.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein the message selection module identifies selected messages by including commands in the message header.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the gateway applies a set of default policies to the electronic message.

6. A method for detecting and selectively preventing the forwarding of an electronic message, wherein the electronic message has a unique message identifier, the method comprising:

scanning the electronic message for a request to prevent forwarding;

storing the message identifier in a blacklist database whenever the request is found; and

blocking forwarding of the electronic message when the message identifier matches an entry in the blacklist database.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the electronic message includes a message body, and wherein scanning includes searching the message body for a request to prevent forwarding.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the electronic message includes a message header, and wherein scanning includes searching the message header for a request to prevent forwarding.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
selecting the electronic message in which to include the request to prevent forwarding.

10. A system for detecting and selectively preventing the forwarding of an electronic message, wherein the electronic message has a unique message identifier, the method comprising:

means for scanning the electronic message for a request to prevent forwarding;

means for storing the message identifier in a blacklist database whenever the request is found; and

means for blocking forwarding of the electronic message whenever the message identifier matches an entry in the blacklist database.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the electronic message includes a message body, and wherein the means for scanning includes searching the message body for a request to prevent forwarding.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the electronic message includes a message header, and wherein the means for scanning includes searching the message header for a request to prevent forwarding.

13. The system of claim 12, further comprising:
means for selecting the electronic message in which to include the request to prevent forwarding.

14. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

scanning the electronic message for a request to prevent forwarding;
storing the message identifier in a blacklist database whenever the request is found; and
blocking forwarding of the electronic message whenever the message identifier matches
an entry in the blacklist database.

15. The medium of claim 14, wherein the electronic message includes a message
body, and wherein scanning includes searching the message body for a request to prevent
forwarding.

16. The medium of claim 15, wherein the electronic message includes a message
header, and wherein scanning includes searching the message header for a request to prevent
forwarding.

17. The medium of claim 16, further comprising:
selecting the electronic message in which to include the request to prevent forwarding.